



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/455,282	12/06/1999	JOHN ANTHONY BEAVEN	UK9-99-128	4896

25259 7590 09/11/2003

IBM CORPORATION
3039 CORNWALLIS RD.
DEPT. T81 / B503, PO BOX 12195
REASEARCH TRIANGLE PARK, NC 27709

EXAMINER

DINH, KHANH Q

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2155

DATE MAILED: 09/11/2003

3

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

3

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/455,282

Applicant(s)

BEAVEN ET AL.

Examiner

Khanh Dinh

Art Unit

2155

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE THREE MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 11 May 2001.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-23 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-23 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

4

DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 1-23 are presented for examination.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application by another who has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371(c) of this title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.

The changes made to 35 U.S.C. 102(e) by the American Inventors Protection Act of 1999 (AIPA) and the Intellectual Property and High Technology Technical Amendments Act of 2002 do not apply when the reference is a U.S. patent resulting directly or indirectly from an international application filed before November 29, 2000. Therefore, the prior art date of the reference is determined under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) prior to the amendment by the AIPA (pre-AIPA 35 U.S.C. 102(e)).

3. Claims 1-23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Goodwin et al. US pat. No.6,199,195.

As to claim 1, Goodwin discloses an apparatus for processing business data processing activities, said apparatus comprising:

an activity instance (object instance) and a descriptor for said activity instance associated uniquely with said activity instance (see abstract, fig.1, col.4 lines 6-63).

wherein said descriptor includes parameters for determining lifecycle behaviors of said activity instance (see also fig.3, col.6 line 29 to col.7 line 60 and col.8 line 43 to col.9 line 60).

As to claims 2 and 3, Goodwin discloses that the descriptor is programmable to modify said lifecycle behaviors according to a use made of said activity instance and is responsive to a request by a client (see col.7 line 7 to col.8 line 41 and col.11 line 18 to col.12 line 57).

As to claims 4 and 5, Goodwin discloses activity instance is responsive to a request by an activity instance is programmable to modify said lifecycle behaviors according to a position in a system hierarchy of said activity instance (using templates to make up a system definition, see fig.3, col.7 line 7 to col.8 line 41 and col.9 line 7 to col.10 line 62).

As to claims 6 and 7, Goodwin discloses controlling of concurrency of activity instances and controlling of re-creation of activity instances (see figs.2, 3, col.7 line 7 to col.8 line 41 and col.9 line 7 to col.10 line 62).

As to claims 8 and 9, Goodwin discloses controlling of termination of activity instances and permitting a creation of an activity instance identifier (see fig.3, col.9 line 7 to col.10 line 62 and col.13 line 7 to col.14 line 60).

As to claims 10 and 19, Goodwin discloses a method for processing business data processing activities, said method comprising the steps of:

defining activity lifecycle characteristics in a descriptor and associating said descriptor uniquely with an activity instance (see abstract, fig.1, col.4 lines 6-63).

using said descriptor to control a lifecycle of said activity instance (see also fig.3, col.6 line 29 to col.7 line 60 and col.8 line 43 to col.9 line 60).

As to claim 11, Goodwin discloses enable definition of varying activity lifecycle characteristics according to a use made of said activity instance client (see col.7 line 7 to col.8 line 41 and col.11 line 18 to col.12 line 57).

Claims 12-18 are rejected for the same reasons set forth in claims 3-9 respectively.

Claims 20-23 are rejected for the same reasons set forth in claims 11 and 3-5 respectively.

Other prior art cited

4. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.
 - a. Hartman et al., US pat. No.6,505,342.
 - b. Singer et al., US pat. No.6,557,009.
 - c. Williams, US pat. No.6,591,272.

Conclusion

5. Claims 1-23 are rejected.
6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Khanh Dinh whose telephone number is (703) 308-8528. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday from 8:00 A.m. to 5:00 P.m.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Alam Hosain, can be reached on (703) 308-6662. The fax phone number for this group is (703) 305-7201.

A shortened statutory period for reply is set to expire THREE months from the mailing

Application/Control Number: 09/455,282

Page 4

Art Unit: 2155

date of this communication. Failure to response within the period for response will cause the application to become abandoned (35 U. S C . Sect. 133). Extensions of time may be obtained under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(A).

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305 -9600.

Khanh Dinh
Patent Examiner
Art Unit 2155
9/5/2003


HOSAIN ALAM
SENIOR PATENT EXAMINER